THE

GOLDEN SPEECH

OF

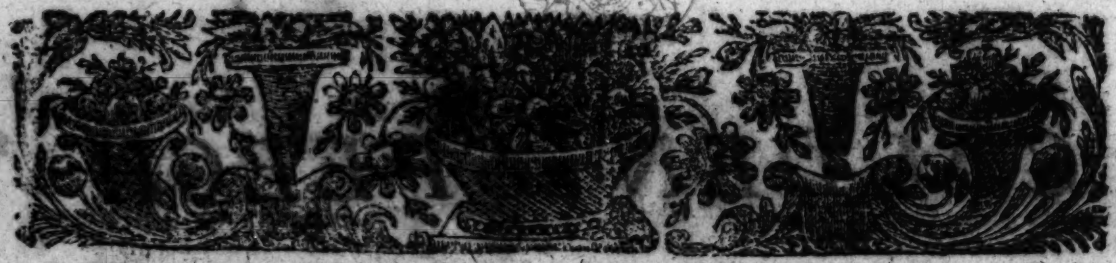
Queen ELIZABETH,

To Her Last

PARLIAMENT,

November the 30th, Anno Domini. 1601.

London: Printed for Richard 1729.



The *Golden Speech* of Q. *Elizabeth.*

Her Majeſty being ſet under State in the *Council-Chamber* at *Whitehall*, the *Speaker*, accompanied with Privy-Councellors, beſides Knights and Burgeſſes of the Lower Houſe, to the Number of Eight-ſcore, preſenting themſelves at her Majeſty's Feet, for that ſo graciouſly and ſpeedily ſhe had heard and yielded to her Subjects Deſires by repealing ſeveral Grants for Monopolies, ſhe took that Opportunity graciouſly to ſpeak to them as follows.

Mr. Speaker,

WE perceive your coming is to preſent Thanks unto Us: Know I accept them with no leſs Joy than your Loves can have Deſire to offer ſuch a Preſent, and do more eſteem it than any Treaſure or Riches, for thoſe We know how to prize, but Loyalty, Love, and Thanks, I account them invaluable; and though God hath raiſed Me on high, to rule in this Kingdom, yet this I account the Glory of My Crown, that I have reigned with your Loves. This makes that I do not ſo much rejoice that God hath made Me to be a Queen, as to be a Queen over ſo thankful a People, and to be the Mean under God to conſerve you in Safety, and preſerve you from Danger, yea to be the Inſtrument to deliver you from Diſhonour, from Shame, and from Infamy, and to keep you from out of Servitude, and from Slavery under our Enemies, and cruel Tyranny, and vile Oppreſſion intended againſt us: For th withſtanding whereof, We take very acceptably your intended Helps, and chiefly in that it manifeſted your Loves and Largeneſs of Hearts to your Sovereign. Of Myſelf, I muſt ſay this, I never was any greedy ſcraping-Graſper, nor a ſtrict faſt-holding Prince, nor yet a Waſter; My Heart was never ſet upon any Worldly Goods, but only for My Subjects Good. What you do beſtow on Me I will not hoard up, but receive it to beſtow on you again; ye mine own Properties I account yours to be expended for your Good, and your Eyes ſhall ſee the Beſtowing of it for your Welfare.

Mr Speaker,

I would wiſh you and the reſt to ſtand up, for fear I ſhall yet trouble you with longer Speech. *Mr.*

* Complaint was made to the Parliament againſt Monopolies; whereupon her Majeſty iſſued a Proclamation, declaring many of thoſe Licenſes and Patents void, upon which the Commons were now come to return her their hearty Thanks.

Mr. Speaker,

You give Me Thanks, but I am more to thank you, and I charge you thank them of the Lower-House from Me, for had I not received Knowledge from you, I might a fallen into the Lapse of an Error, only for Want of true Information.

Since I was Queen, yet did I never put my Pen to any Grant, but upon Pretext and Semblance made Me, that it was for the Good and Avail of My Subjects generally, though a private Profit to some of My ancient Servants who have deserved well; But that My Grants shall be made Grievances to my People, and Oppressions, to be privileged under Colour of Our Patents, Our Princely Dignity shall not suffer it.

When I heard it, I could give no Rest unto my Thoughts until I had reformed it, and those Varlets, lewd Persons, Abusers of my Bounty, shall know I will not suffer it. And, *Mr. Speaker*, tell the House from Me, I take it exceeding grateful, that the Knowledge of these Things are come unto Me from them. And tho' amongst them the Principal Members are such as are not touched in Private, and therefore need not speak from any Feeling of the Grief, yet, We have heard that other Gentlemen also of the House, who stand as free, have spoken as freely in it; which gives Us to know that no Respects or Interests have moved them, other than the Minds they bear to suffer no Diminution of Our Honour and Our Subjects Love unto Us. The Zeal of which Affection tending to ease My People, and knit their Hearts unto Us, I embrace with a Princely Care far above all Earthly Treasures. I esteem My People's Love, more than which I desire not to merit. And God that gave Me here to sit, knows, that I never in any wise respected Myself, but as your Good was conserved in Me; Yet what Dangers, what Practices, and what Perils I have passed, some, if not all of you know: But none of these Things do move Me, or ever made Me fear, but it's God that hath delivered Me.

And in My Governing this Land, I have ever set the Judgment-Day before Mine Eyes, and so to Rule, as I shall be Judged and Answer before a higher Judge, to whose Judgment Seat I do appeal in that never any Thought was cherished in my Heart that tended not to My People's Good.

And if My Princely Bounty have been abused, and My Grants turned to the Hurt of My People contrary to My Will and Meaning, or if any in Authority under Me have neglected, or converted what I have committed unto them, I hope God will not lay their Guilt to My Charge.

To be a King and wear a Crown, is a Thing more glorious to them that see it than it's pleasant to them that bear it: For Myself, I never was so much inticed with the glorious Name of a King, or the Royal Authority of a Queen, as delighted that God hath made Me His instrument to maintain His Truth and Glory, and to defend this Kingdom from Dishonour, Damage, Tyranny and Oppression. But should ascribe any of these Things to Myself or My Sexly Weakness, I were not worthy to live, and of all most unworthy of the Mercies I have received at God's Hands; but to God only and wholly All is given and ascribed.

The

The Care and Troubles of a Crown I cannot more fitly resemble than to the Drugs of a learned Phisitian, perfumed with some Aromatical Savour, or to bitter Pils gilded over, by which they are made more acceptable or less offensive, which indeed are bitter and unpleasant to take; and for My own Part, were it not for Conscience Sake to discharge the Duty that God hath laid upon Me, and to maintain His Glory, and keep you in Safety, in mine own Disposition I should be willing to resign the Place I hold to any other, and glad to be freed of the Glory with the Labours, for it is not my Desire to live nor to reign, longer than my Life and Reign shall be for your Good. And though you have had and may have many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you never had nor shall have any will love you better.

Thus, Mr. *Speaker*, I commend Me to your loyal Loves, and yours to My best Care and further Councels, and I pray you, Mr. Comptroler, and Mr. Secretary, and you of My Council, that before these Gentlemen depart into their Countries, you bring them all to kiss my Hand.

FINIS.